

"L" ROADS MAY USE COMPRESSED AIR.

Electricity Has a Strong Rival in the Consideration of the Company.

With it as Motive Power Each Engine Could Be Operated Independently.

DANGER OF EXPLOSIONS OVERCOME.

Secretary McWilliams Admits That Experiments Are Being Made with a View of Its Possible Adoption.

Electricity has a rival. It is compressed air, with which experiments are being made, with regard to its possible use as a motive power on the Manhattan Elevated Railroad. This statement was made by Daniel W. McWilliams, secretary of the company, and also by Lawson N. Fuller, who is recognized as the chief "L" booster in the upper sections of New York. Mr. McWilliams said: "Experiments are being made with such a power, and it has shown wonderful results. Scientists have been working with it for twenty-five years and have made great developments. They have been working quietly, and so have we, but I will not say what has been done nor what the power is." When he was asked later if compressed air was not the power, he said it was, but that experiments were not being made on the "L" road.

"Have experiments been made elsewhere?"

"Yes, but I will not say by whom."

The claims made for compressed air by its advocates are that it causes less vibration than steam, thus saving the "L" structure, and that the lines can be equipped with it more cheaply than with any kind of electrical power.

"It has always been supposed that electricity would be the power adopted when a change was made, and if electricity were developed to the point where the storage battery was a perfect success, it is not likely that any other power would be considered by the 'L' road with the underground tunnel scheme so far progressed that work may be commenced this year, the people clamoring for rapid transit and ready to favor any new plan that seems practical, Mr. Gould and Mr. Sage realize that delay is dangerous."

One of the chief objections formerly made to the use of compressed air as motive power was that the reservoirs in which it is kept on engines are liable to explode and cause great damage. To meet this it is claimed that a process has been evolved in Germany, whereby reservoirs are manufactured from solid ingots of mild steel, without a joint or weld and capable of sustaining with safety, a pressure of 2,000 pounds per square inch. This, it is claimed, averts every danger, but even if the theory should fail and a reservoir should burst, it is asserted that as the material, unlike cast iron, is ductile, the only effect would be the forming of a rent through which the air would escape with a hissing noise.

It is understood that both Mr. Sage and Mr. Gould find the fault with electricity that when all the trains are depending on a continuous circuit there would be great danger of blockades resulting from derangement of the machinery in the power house or from interference in the circuit. With compressed air each engine would be operated independently.

The chief objection to the system is that, with electricity recognized as the only power, the "L" road and compressed air power a white elephant on its hands in less than a decade.

THIRD TIME WAS UNCHARMED.

Celtic Wife of a Sicilian Unable to Kill Herself with Matches.

Mrs. Belle Leo was born in Ireland. In New York City she married Joseph Leo, who was born in Sicily. A few rooms on the top floor of a tenement at No. 7 James street has been their home. It has proved too small for them, although in smaller apartments all Italian and all Irish families, numbering a dozen, live in comparative peace.

Joseph is very jealous, and his wife has suffered so much that, having grown melancholy, she has three times a week soaked boxes of matches in water and drunk the deadly liquid. Her latest attempt was last night, and was, owing to the interference of doctors, as nauseating and futile as the others.

BOTH HIS HANDS CRUSHED.

Festinger Loses His Balance and Falls Under a Cable Car.

Charles Festinger, thirty-eight years old, of No. 305 East Houston street, attempted to board a southbound cable car at Third avenue and Sixty-seventh street, at 12:25 p. m. yesterday. He lost his hold and fell from the car, striking against an "L" road pillar as he did so, and the wheels of the car passed over both his hands, crushing the fingers. He was badly bruised about the head and body.

Patrolman Whitbeck arrested the gripman, Patrick Murtin, who lives at the Mt. Morris Hotel, and the conductor, Andrew Kilkenny, of No. 201 Forty-second street. Festinger was taken to the Presbyterian Hospital for treatment.

COMING EVENTS.

A regular meeting of the New York B-Metallic Association will be held at the New York B-Metallic Association, 25 West Fourth street, to-night. T. B. Waken and George H. Yeaman will open a discussion on "Should Not the United States Monetary Standard Be Based Upon Gold and Silver?"

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The hall and entertainment to be given by the Manhattan Ship Joiners' Association, in commemoration of the first anniversary will be held at the Lexington Opera House on May 6.

A lecture on "Punkishness and Romanticism in Russia" will be delivered by Prince S. Volkonsky in the Carnegie Lecture, Seventh avenue and Fifty-ninth street, to-morrow evening.

Mr. William C. Carl will give his annual series of Free Springtime lectures in the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth avenue and Twelfth street, New York, on Friday evenings, May 8 and 10. Prominent artists have been engaged to appear and a number of new compositions written for Mr. Carl will be given for the first time.

The members of the Riverside Republican Club are making preparations for a smoker and entertainment to be held at Lion Park Hall, One Hundred and Eighty street and Columbus avenue, on Thursday evening, May 7. Addresses are to be made by Abraham Gruber, Hamilton Fish, Edward Landwehr, David Mitchell and others.

Dr. William J. Morton will deliver a lecture entitled "The X-Ray and Some of Its Relations to Medicine" before the New York Medical-Surgical Society, at the Tuxedo, Madison avenue and Fifty-ninth street, to-night.

New York Commandery, Loyal Legion, will hold its annual election of officers, to be followed by a banquet, at the New York B-Metallic Association, 25 West Fourth street, to-night. The evening Major Charles A. Woodruff will read a paper, "In Memory of the Late Major-General John Gibson, ex-Commander-in-Chief."



Mrs. Minnie Johnson.

She was asphyxiated in her bedroom and the police think she killed herself, but her friends insist that her death was an accident.

A TRADE DOLLAR REVIVAL.

Senator Butler's Scheme to Add More Silver Coins to the United States Currency.

By Julius Chambers.

Washington, May 3.—Senator Butler, the North Carolina Populist, who frequently expounds finance to the Senate, believes that the more money there is in circulation the greater the degree of prosperity there would be for the country.

He would have the mints turning out silver dollars day and night and the presses of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing making greenbacks by the billion for circulation among "the farmers." This latest scheme of this Populist Senator for producing pecuniary relief is set forth in the following bill, which he introduced last Friday.

A bill, making certain foreign and domestic coins full legal tender for all purposes. Be it enacted, etc., That the Mexican silver dollar, containing not less than 374 grains of pure silver, the Japanese yen, containing not less than 374 grains of pure silver, and the trade dollar, shall be each equal in value to the standard dollar of the United States, and shall each be a full legal tender for any amount for all debts, public and private.

The American trade dollar, which the North Carolina Senator would make legal tender, was coined to a limited sum, with the idea that the United States would trade of the United States. The trade dollar contained 420 grains of standard silver, while the silver dollar contained 26.7 grains, but 412 grains, and yet the circulation value of the trade dollar in this country was only 85 cents. It was taken on trade and business generally at 15 per cent discount. Finally, its mission having proved a failure, the trade dollar was extinguished as far as the power of the Treasury to do so went.

PULLMAN'S IDEAL CITY.

Universalist Minister Describes a Possible Moral Commonwealth.

Rev. James Milton Pullman preached on "The Function of the Church in the City," at the Fourth Universalist Church, corner of Fifth avenue and Forty-fifth street, yesterday. He said:

"The great city of the future will have special moral tests for admission to citizenship. Fools will not choose wise men to represent or rule them. This city with have, also, home rule, and from State and national politics and from legislative interference. One responsible ruler, who shall be held strictly to account, will govern this city. There will be no representation, no party, no nomination, and no election. Such a city would not be a practical municipality nor a business corporation, but a moral commonwealth."

"The church should be the soul of the city. An exclusive church is a parasite the spirit of Him who gave His life to save a blinded city must govern God's people. That golden city of which we have heard will not come down from heaven, but will arise from the earth. It will be a city of love and devotion one another, and will live in mutual respect and welfare."

At Temple Emanuel, the Revs. Joseph Silverman and Gustav Gotthelf, co-pastors of the church, delivered sermons on "Reforming the Jewish People" yesterday. Dr. Silverman expressed the belief that America is to be the Jerusalem of the Reformed world. Dr. Gotthelf referred to the Lyman Abbott's recent sermon on the resurrection, and said it was essentially a Jewish discourse. Any Jewish church, he said, could safely advance Dr. Abbott's view.

IN MEMORY OF MISS LEE.

Ethical Culture Pupils and Other Friends Will Meet To-night.

Miss Abbie S. Lee, who had been for many years a teacher in the ethical culture schools, and had also been a special assistant to Frank Damrosch in conducting the classes of the People's Choral Union, founded by him, died suddenly on May 1.

Her body was taken to the home of her family, in Hanover, Conn., where the funeral will take place.

As Miss Lee enjoyed the love and esteem of many persons, it has been decided to hold memorial services this evening in the Assembly Hall of the Ethical Culture School, No. 100 West Fifty-fourth street, in which the pupils of the school, as well as the members of the People's Choral Union, will take part. Felix Adler will speak.

Forgot to Read His Orders.

Charlotteville, Va., May 3.—A Southern Railway south-bound freight, drawn by two engines was run into by a north-bound vegetable train this morning near Profit.

six miles from here. Fireman Whedbee and his left leg broken in four places and with die, Fireman Harvey was badly injured by jumping. All three engines were smashed and fourteen cars wrecked with a loss of \$30,000. Engineer Keith got orders here to meet the south-bound train at Profit. He forgot to read them, and ran by the station.

Bishop Burke Laid the Stone.

Saratoga, May 3.—At Ballston Spa this afternoon the Right Rev. T. M. A. Burke, Bishop of Albany, laid the corner stone of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. He was assisted by the Very Rev. John Swift, vicar-general of the diocese; Rev. J. P. D'Arcy, chancellor of the diocese; Rev. J. P. D'Arcy, O. S. A., of Mechanicsville; Rev. J. O'Brien, of Sandy Hill.

Woman's Sabbath Alliance.

Rev. Dr. Robert MacArthur presided and made the opening address of the meeting of the Woman's National Sabbath Alliance, in Calvary Baptist Church, Fifty-seventh street, near Sixth avenue, last evening. The Rev. Dr. Mackay, of New York, the Rev. Nathaniel Nicklin and his wife, also spoke.

SEVEN YEARS WENT THE DAY SHE DIED.

Mrs. Minnie Johnson Asphyxiated by Accident, Her Friends Say.

Police Think She Killed Herself Because She Thought Her Husband Did Not Love Her.

PARTED BY THEIR EMPLOYMENTS.

She Sold Hats in a Sixth Avenue Store and He Is a Travelling Salesman—A Despondent Letter to Him Written Before Death.

The police of the Tenderloin precinct are trying to solve the mystery surrounding the death of Mrs. Minnie Johnson, twenty-six years of age, who was found dying in her room, at No. 149 West Twenty-first street, Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Johnson for over a year had been in the employ of a large Sixth avenue dry goods house as a saleswoman in the hat department and is very highly spoken of by her employers. When discovered the one gas jet in her room was turned on full and her head was partly covered with the bed clothing. She was unconscious, and died within an hour. She was the wife of William H. Johnson, a commercial traveller, who is most of the time absent from the city.

The inmates of the boarding house speak of Mrs. Johnson in the very highest terms. They say she returned from business Friday evening in the best of spirits and found a letter awaiting her postmarked Providence, R. I. The contents of the letter seemed to give her much joy. She said it was from her husband, and the manner in which she referred to him indicated that she thought a great deal of him.

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HARRISON'S HAND IN IT.

The Indiana Platform, It Is Said, Will Contain the Financial Views of the Ex-President.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 3.—Prominent Republicans are already arriving to take part in the Republican convention, which meets in this city on Thursday next. The platform makers have already been at work and have submitted drafts of the platform to a number of prominent party men, among them ex-President Harrison. The latter is said to have suggested that the party give an expression of conservative views upon the tariff and to speak out boldly in favor of the single gold standard. He holds to the view that the people understand that the Republican party is pledged to a tariff that will insure the prompt payment of the expenses of the Government, and, while he wants this doctrine reaffirmed by the State party, he is particularly insistent in an unequivocal declaration on the money question.

The struggle for the Governorship promises to be the most animated that was ever witnessed in the State. There are ten candidates for the first place upon the State ticket. The list embraces Charles T. Dwyer, of Anderson, a millionaire real estate man, and ex-Congressman Charles F. Griffin, of Hammond, ex-Secretary of State; Theodore Shookler, Union City, ex-State Senator; John J. Griffiths, of this city, ex-Reporter of the Supreme Court, and Frank R. Posey, of Evansville, ex-Congressman. Each of these candidates is attended by a large number of friends, and to-morrow will meet in a caucus, against the heavy odds of Republicans to work for their favorites.

AHLWARDT'S NON-UNIONISM.

That and Other Jewish Affairs Discussed by the Central Labor Union.

The time of the Central Labor Union at its regular meeting yesterday was largely occupied by discussions regarding Jews. It was reported that Herr Ahlwardt, who is known as the "Jew Baiter," had started, or was about to start, a paper ostensibly in the interest of labor, but with non-union printers. Resolutions condemning him were passed and his case was left in the hands of a committee to wait upon the German press.

A complaint next came up to the effect that the Hebrew butchers who do the kosher killing of cattle for consumption by East Side Hebrews were non-union men. A resolution was adopted calling for the appointment of a committee to wait upon Chief Rabbi Joseph and make a complaint on the subject. Several English-speaking delegates were mentioned for service on that committee, but were withdrawn when it was explained that Rabbi Joseph, while speaking both Hebrew and German fluently, understands no English.

It was decided that a protest should be made to the managers of the Electrical Exhibition, which begins to-day, against the employment of a member of the Musical Mutual Protective Union as musical director, instead of a member of the National Musical Union, as originally agreed.

A FAULTY SEWER SYSTEM.

South Orange Board of Health Is Much Concerned.

South Orange, N. J., May 3.—The village Board of Health is much concerned over the sanitary conditions of the water supply. At a recent inspection conducted by the Health Inspector, Dr. William J. Chandler, it was discovered that eleven wells in the village were in a dangerous condition, and that Stonehouse Brook, between South Orange and Newark, was a source of contamination. It was decided to make a full inspection of the drainage of the village, and to make a report to the Board of Health.

The Board decided to ask the Village Trustees to take immediate steps to protect the health of the community by the adoption of a new sewerage system. It was decided also to appeal to the State authorities to compel Orange people to stop running sewage into the creek branch of the Hackensack River, which also runs through South Orange.

SENT ONE LETTER TOO MANY.

"King of Beggars" at Last Comes to Grief Through His Ready Pen.

Chief Agent Jerome, of the Charity Organization Society, assigned in Yorkville Court yesterday Thomas M. Bennett, who gave his address as No. 14 Livingston street. He is known to the police and charity societies as the "King of Beggars." For the past ten years he has waxed fat on the substance of susceptible citizens, wormed from them by his pathetically worded letters. Even the Goulds, Vanderbilts and Godolfs have contributed to his hoard.

He is said to have a comfortable bank account. Scores of complaints have been made about him within the last year. On Saturday he wrote to Mrs. Charles Tiffin, wife of the Jeweller, of No. 253 Madison avenue. The letter was sent to the society, and Jerome acted on it at once. Minister Cornell sent Bennett to the workhouse.

TALKS OF DIGNITY OF LABOR.

Rev. C. L. Thompson Preaches the First of Four Sermons to Workingmen.

"The Dignity of Labor" was the subject of the evening sermon preached by the Rev. Charles L. Thompson, at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church yesterday. It was the first of a series of four sermons to be delivered to workingmen.

"The universe," he said, "knows nothing of idleness. Everything in nature works. The man who with his hands is not the only laborer. In many instances the millionaire would be glad to change places with him. In spite of this, there is a wrong disposition to patronize physical toil. Give all due praise to brain workers, but soon the ideal of brain work is the only grand work. Brains are always respectable, but we have no respect for a man who despises work because he is in his grandfather's coat-of-arms. Ours is an aristocracy of work."

BARGAIN, SALE IN WOOD.

To Be Held If a Charity Bureau Fails to Realize Otherwise.

Orange, N. J., May 3.—There is war between the wood dealers and the Bureau of Associated Charities here. The cause is the price charged for kindling. All last winter the bureau gave employment to men to split wood, and the result has been the accumulation of a vast pile of wood, which the wood dealers have been unable to sell. The dealers retailed and made their price five barrels for the same money.

The dealers did a rushing business, and the bureau was almost without customers until it was demonstrated that the bureau's four barrels held more than from five or six dealers. Still there are skeptics, and the Bureau of Associated Charities are considering the idea of holding a bargain sale of the wood on hand in order to clear out the stock.

CITY NEWS BRIEFS.

While on his way to visit a friend at No. 415 West Fifty-second street, yesterday, Patrick Holley, thirty-seven years old, a blacksmith, of No. 402 West Thirty-second street, was taken suddenly ill in the hallway of his friend's home, and before medical aid could be summoned died. Death is supposed to have been due to heart disease.

A small boy threw a stone through the window of an Avenue C surface car while the car was passing the intersection between Fifth avenue and Avenue A yesterday afternoon. Some of the glass and the stone struck Christian Kunz, No. 147 West Twenty-second street, and he is in the hospital. The car was stopped and the boy was taken into custody.

Alfred Shaw, twenty-three years old, of No. 115 West Tenth street, had an epileptic fit on a Fifth avenue car at Greenwich avenue early yesterday morning. Shaw fell from the car and the left side of his face was badly cut by the fall. He was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital.

Andrew Zanol, an Italian, called at the Harlem Hospital yesterday and asked the doctors to mend his broken jaw. He claimed to have fallen from a construction train. The doctors believe that his jaw was broken during a fight. Two weeks ago Mrs. Eva Schneider, of No. 48 Street, was killed by a car. She died yesterday at St. Mark's Hospital.

Arthur Glaser, of No. 417 East Fifteenth street, exhibited a loaded revolver at a "mixed ale" saloon at No. 401 East Eighteenth street, Saturday night, loaded a woman, and with the assistance of Mickey Doman started a free fight. In the fight Glaser was badly wounded and held them for carrying concealed weapons.

Clarence Sharp and Louis Tridley, two Albany boys, who came away from home Saturday were captured by 19 East Broadway early yesterday morning. Late in the afternoon the man was found in a room in the Hotel Hamilton, and turned on. He was taken to Governor's Hospital.

ASSEMBLYMAN MALONE DEAD.

Expires from Pleurisy the Day After His Return from Asheville.

Assemblyman Bernard H. Malone, of the Thirty-fourth district, died yesterday afternoon, at his home, No. 322 East One Hundred and Twentieth street, after a brief illness. Mr. Malone was forty-two years old and was born and brought up in Harlem. He went to Asheville, N. C., five weeks ago, hoping that the climate would benefit his health, as he had been suffering from pleurisy. He continued to grow worse, however, and was brought home at 11 o'clock on Saturday night. He was not married.

Mr. Malone was a member of the Tammany General Committee and of the Senate under ex-Judge Andrew J. White. He had a host of friends in Harlem. He was elected to the Legislature last Fall. His competitor was Philip Reinhardt. While at Albany Mr. Malone had a bill passed, allowing the delicatessen stores to sell cooked foods on Sunday, and also a bill providing for the building of a bridge over the Morris Canal, at One Hundred and Thirtieth street. Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made.

WAS HIT WITH A BIG BOTTLE.

John McDonough's Skull Was Fractured, but He Wouldn't Stay in a Hospital.

During a fight last evening William Clafferty, of No. 74 Montgomery street, struck John McDonough, of No. 27 Jefferson street, on the head with a bottle, fracturing his skull. The injured man was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, and although he was told the wound was serious and that he had better remain in the hospital, he left and went to his home. Clafferty was arrested. McDonough says Clafferty struck him in the face. He retaliated, and Clafferty struck him on the head with the bottle, which he had in his pocket. He says he never saw Clafferty before.

TALKS IN BEHALF OF CUBA.

The Rev. J. W. Campbell Speaks of the Bravery of the Revolutionists.

The Rev. J. W. Campbell preached on "Cuba" in the Eighteenth Street Methodist Episcopal Church last night. After reviewing the history of the island and its people, he said that the revolutionists against Spanish rule, he said:

"How can we think of the battles of the Revolution and not give our aid to the cause? Cuba is now fighting for the same liberty that we enjoy. There were no greater heroes of the war than there are now among the Cubans."

Furniture, Etc.